

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140262  
ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 /019 R

DRAFTED BY SMI:RSIMONS:JES  
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:RFOBER,JR,ACTING  
NEA/INS:DRTELLEEN

-----170040Z 103236 /73

P 162141Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

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FOR EMBASSY ACTION FROM STATE AND SMITHSONIAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, NP

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN TIGER PROJECT

REF: KATHMANDU 2406

1. SMITHSONIAN AND WORLD WILDLIFE FUND CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN DISCUSSION CONCERNING FUTURE OF TIGER ECOLOGY PROJECT. THEY FEEL THAT RECENT NEGATIVE ACTIONS BY HMG CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT, NIGHT TRACKING, AND TRACKING TIGERS OUTSIDE CHITAWAN PARK HAVE SEVERELY HAMPERED RESEARCH EFFORT. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE, SMI AND WWF FEEL LITTLE SCIENTIFIC MERIT TO BE GAINED FROM CONTINUATION OF PROJECT AND ARE CONSIDERING TERMINATION OF PROJECT. SMI AND WWF WILL URGE HMG TO TAKE OVER FUTURE RESEARCH EFFORTS. LETTER FORTHCOMING FROM SEC. RIPLEY TO PRINCE GYANENDRA OUTLINING PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WITH HMG AND PROJECT CLOSE-OUT DETAILS. HMG WILL BE OFFERED OPPORTUNITY FOR FUTURE FUNDING FROM WWF

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AND SMI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SMI PLANNING TO DONATE BUILDING AT CHITAWAN, SOME JEEPS, AND ELEPHANTS. ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE SHIPPED BACK TO SMI AT SMITH'S DISCRETION. TELEGRAM DETAILING TRANSFER OF THESE ITEMS TO FOLLOW. SMITH SHOULD AWAIT FURTHER WORD BEFORE ACTING.

2. HMG IS ALLEGED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT ABRUPT TERMINATION

OF PROJECT AND THREATENING ACTION AGAINST FUTURE WWF AND SMI EFFORTS IN NEPAL. SMI BELIEVES RIPLEY LETTER WILL CLARIFY SITUATION. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASK DAVID SMITH TO REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON PROJECT'S FUTURE EXCEPT TO SAY STATEMENT BEING FORWARDED TO GYANENDRA.

3. SMI ASKS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN HELPING SMITH SHIP EQUIPMENT TO U.S. (INCLUDING CB RADIOS) AND ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORT OF USABLE VEHICLES TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI FOR FUTURE SMI USE. FISCAL DATA FOR SHIPMENT IS 87314011-P1300 0-002.

4. GAY TROTH, BOTANIST ON SMI PROJECT, WILL NOT RETURN TO NEPAL. SMITH IS ASKED TO ARRANGE WITH FLEMMINGS FOR GATHERING OF TROTH GOODS FOR SHIPMENT HOME. SMITH ALSO INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE CLOSING OF BANK ACCOUNT AND ARRANGE THROUGH EMBASSY FOR CHECK IN U.S. DOLS TO SMI.

5. SMITH SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED THAT HIS FELLOWSHIP WILL BE CONTINUED BY SMI UNTIL 30 SEPT. SMITH WILL BE INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND SHOULD CLOSELY INFORM SMI OF HIS MOVEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WILD LIFE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE140262  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** RSIMONS:JES  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SMI  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 KATHMANDU 2406  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SMITHSONIAN TIGER PROJECT  
**TAGS:** TBIO, NP  
**To:** KATHMANDU  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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